

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment cancels claim 18 without prejudice. Thus, claims 1 through 17 and 19 through 20 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment.

Claims 4 and 15 have been amended to conform the claim to the amendments discussed below with respect to claims 1 and 12, respectively. Claims 5 and 16 have been amended to change "the" to "a" for purposes of providing proper antecedent basis for the "photograph display area" element.

Claims 1 through 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,231,196 to Mahachek (Mahachek).

Independent claim 1 now recites, in part, the step of "cutting the medium along the desired cut line via said computer aided laser system".

Mahachek is directed to a process for laser marking mirrors. Specifically, Mahachek discloses a mirror having a reflective backing with a protective backside comprising an opaque or colored coating, and the coating and backing is vaporized with the laser beam to form a laser-enhanced image. See col. 2, lines 53-67. During marking, high peak power pulses at low frequencies can increase the surface temperature of the workpiece very rapidly which can result in material vaporization of the reflective backing and minimal heat conduction into the mirror or other product. See col. 5, lines 61-64. Thus,

Mahachek discloses minimizing heat input into the mirror and, thus, teaches away from cutting as recited by claim 1.

Accordingly, the laser marking of mirrors taught by Mahachek simply does not disclose or suggest the cutting of the medium along the desired cut line recited by claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 through 11 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they depend from the aforementioned claim 1.

In addition, claim 2 recites that "said medium is a wood". It is further submitted that the mirrors having reflective coating such as that taught by Mahachek simply can not be made of wood. It is submitted that the long list of items disclosed by Mahachek at col. 2, lines 38-52 merely teaches contemplated uses for the engraved mirror and, not, types of media for the engraved mirror other than glass or plastic. Clearly, the engraved glass or plastic of Mahachek does not disclose or suggest the wood medium recited by claim 2. Claim 2 is therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1 through 11 are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 12 recites, in part, the step of "cutting the medium along an outline of said photo image via said computer aided laser system".

Again, Mahachek is directed to a process for laser marking

mirrors, which simply can not cut the mirror of plastic or glass. Accordingly, the laser marking of mirrors taught by Mahachek simply does not disclose or suggest the cutting of the medium along the outline recited by claim 12. Claim 12 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 13 through 17 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they depend from the aforementioned claim 12.

In addition, claim 13 recites that "said medium is a wood". In contrast, Mahachek discloses mirrors that simply can not be made of wood. Claim 13 is therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 12 through 17 are respectfully requested.

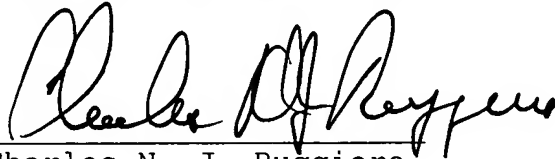
Independent claim 19 now recites, in part, a protruding portion that has "an outline substantially similar to a contour of the picture".

Again, Mahachek is directed to a process for laser marking mirrors. Mahachek does not disclose or suggest a protruding portion that has "an outline substantially similar to a contour of the picture" as recited by claim 19. Therefore, claim 19, as well as claim 20 that depends therefrom, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 19 and 20 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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